

**SHERLOCK HOLMES
AND THE ICE
PALACE MURDERS**

BY
JEFFREY HATCHER

BASED ON THE NOVEL BY
LARRY MILLETT



DRAMATISTS
PLAY SERVICE
INC.

SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE ICE PALACE MURDERS
Copyright © 2017, Jeffrey Hatcher

Sherlock Holmes and the Ice Palace Murders
Copyright © 1998, Larry Millett

All Rights Reserved

CAUTION: Professionals and amateurs are hereby warned that performance of SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE ICE PALACE MURDERS is subject to payment of a royalty. It is fully protected under the copyright laws of the United States of America, and of all countries covered by the International Copyright Union (including the Dominion of Canada and the rest of the British Commonwealth), and of all countries covered by the Pan-American Copyright Convention, the Universal Copyright Convention, the Berne Convention, and of all countries with which the United States has reciprocal copyright relations. All rights, including without limitation professional/amateur stage rights, motion picture, recitation, lecturing, public reading, radio broadcasting, television, video or sound recording, all other forms of mechanical, electronic and digital reproduction, transmission and distribution, such as CD, DVD, the Internet, private and file-sharing networks, information storage and retrieval systems, photocopying, and the rights of translation into foreign languages are strictly reserved. Particular emphasis is placed upon the matter of readings, permission for which must be secured from the Author's agent in writing.

The English language stock and amateur stage performance rights in the United States, its territories, possessions and Canada for SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE ICE PALACE MURDERS are controlled exclusively by DRAMATISTS PLAY SERVICE, INC., 440 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016. No professional or nonprofessional performance of the Play may be given without obtaining in advance the written permission of DRAMATISTS PLAY SERVICE, INC., and paying the requisite fee.

Inquiries concerning all other rights should be addressed to Paradigm, 360 Park Avenue South, 16th Floor, New York, NY 10010. Attn: Jack Tantleff.

SPECIAL NOTE

Anyone receiving permission to produce SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE ICE PALACE MURDERS is required to give credit to the Author as sole and exclusive Author of the Play on the title page of all programs distributed in connection with performances of the Play and in all instances in which the title of the Play appears, including printed or digital materials for advertising, publicizing or otherwise exploiting the Play and/or a production thereof. Please see your production license for font size and typeface requirements.

Be advised that there may be additional credits required in all programs and promotional material. Such language will be listed under the "Additional Billing" section of production licenses. It is the licensee's responsibility to ensure any and all required billing is included in the requisite places, per the terms of the license.

SPECIAL NOTE ON SONGS AND RECORDINGS

Dramatists Play Service, Inc. neither holds the rights to nor grants permission to use any songs or recordings mentioned in the Play. Permission for performances of copyrighted songs, arrangements or recordings mentioned in this Play is not included in our license agreement. The permission of the copyright owner(s) must be obtained for any such use. For any songs and/or recordings mentioned in the Play, other songs, arrangements, or recordings may be substituted provided permission from the copyright owner(s) of such songs, arrangements or recordings is obtained; or songs, arrangements or recordings in the public domain may be substituted.

SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE ICE PALACE MURDERS was originally produced at Park Square Theatre (Richard Cook, Artistic Director), Saint Paul, Minnesota, in June 2015. It was directed by Peter Moore, the costume designer was Amy B. Kaufman, the sound designer was Evan Middlesworth, the lighting designer was Michael P. Kittel, the set designer was Michael P. Kittel, and the stage manager was Jamie J. Kranz. The cast was as follows:

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| SHERLOCK HOLMES | Steve Hendrickson |
| DR. JOHN H. WATSON | Bob Davis |
| DETECTIVE WOOLDRIDGE | Stephen Cartmell |
| CHICAGO POLICEMAN | Neal Hazzard |
| FATHER | Jason Rojas |
| MOTHER | Taylor Harvey |
| PORTER | James Cada |
| WOMAN | Tamara Clark |
| CONDUCTOR | E.J. Subkoviak |
| GEORGE WASHINGTON THOMAS | Neal Hazzard |
| GIUSSEPPE DANTE | Stephen Cartmell |
| LARS MELANDER | James Cada |
| MICHAEL RILEY | Jason Rojas |
| SHADWELL RAFFERTY | E.J. Subkoviak |
| MISS PYLE | Tamara Clark |
| CHIEF O'CONNOR | James Cada |
| LAPHAM | Stephen Cartmell |
| COMMODORE FORBES | James Cada |
| FREDDIE FORBES | Jason Rojas |
| LAURA FORBES | Taylor Harvey |
| GEORGE UPTON | Neal Hazzard |
| BILLY BOUQUET | Stephen Cartmell |
| MASKED MAN 1 | Jason Rojas |
| MASKED MAN 2 | Stephen Cartmell |
| MASKED WOMAN | Tamara Clark |
| BEATRICE | Tamara Clark |

CHARACTERS

SHERLOCK HOLMES

DR. JOHN H. WATSON

DETECTIVE WOOLDRIDGE

CHICAGO POLICEMAN

FATHER

MOTHER

PORTER

A YOUNG WOMAN

CONDUCTOR

GEORGE WASHINGTON THOMAS

GIUSSEPPE DANTE

LARS MELANDER

MICHAEL RILEY

SHADWELL RAFFERTY

MISS PYLE

CHIEF O'CONNOR

LAPHAM, THE BUTLER

COMMODORE FORBES

FREDDIE FORBES

LAURA FORBES

GEORGE UPTON

BILLY BOUQUET

MASKED MAN 1

MASKED MAN 2
MASKED WOMAN
BEATRICE

PLACE

Saint Paul, Minnesota

TIME

January, 1896

NOTE

The play can be performed by a cast of 9: 7 men and 2 women.

SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE ICE PALACE MURDERS

ACT ONE

Prologue

As house lights go to black—sound: news boys calling.

NEWS BOY 1. *(Offstage.) Holmes Suspect! Holmes Is Suspect!*

NEWS BOY 2. *(Offstage.) Holmes Sought in Murder Case!*

NEWS BOY 3. *(Offstage.) Holmes Is Arrested!*

NEWS BOY 1. *(Offstage.) Holmes Confesses!*

NEWS BOY 2. *(Offstage.) Holmes on Trial!*

NEWS BOY 3. *(Offstage.) Holmes Found Guilty!*

ALL NEWS BOYS. *(Offstage.) Holmes Sentenced to Death!*

Scene 1

Union Station. Chicago (1896).

Dr. John H. Watson, in an overcoat and hat, stands center. He holds his medical bag, reads a newspaper.

Detective Wooldridge enters.

WATSON. Ah, Mr. Wooldridge.

DETECTIVE WOOLDRIDGE. Dr. Watson. I've come to see you off.

WATSON. (*Re: newspaper.*) Very kind of you, under the circumstances.

DETECTIVE WOOLDRIDGE. (*Takes it, reads.*) "HOLMES TO HANG. EXECUTION SET SIX MONTHS FROM NOW."

WATSON. Six months too late if you ask me.

DETECTIVE WOOLDRIDGE. When would you have it done?

WATSON. At once, with all speed.

DETECTIVE WOOLDRIDGE. I didn't realize you had become so passionate.

WATSON. Passionate? I'd hang Holmes *myself* if I had the rope.

Sherlock Holmes enters, in Inverness cape and deerstalker.

HOLMES. Talking about me?

WATSON. Hm? No. The other Holmes.

HOLMES. (*Takes newspaper.*) Ah, yes. The soon to be late, ne'er to be lamented H.H. Holmes, proprietor of Chicago's infamous "murder house."

DETECTIVE WOOLDRIDGE. I wish the newspapers wouldn't advertise the place as *Chicago's* murder house.

HOLMES. The American criminal is a distinctive species, but nowhere has he developed with more graphic variation than in Chicago. Why, it was to take in your city's deplorable wonders that Watson and I made it the last stop of our American visit.

WATSON. Yes, Holmes promised an education in every known vice and perversion.

HOLMES. With the celebrated detective Mr. Clifton Wooldridge as our guide to such sites typically Chicagoan as “the goosing slum,” “the blind pig,” and the house of horrors where Henry H. Holmes committed his gruesome crimes. Two hundred murders!

A Husband and Wife (well-off out-of-towners) have entered with a Porter pushing a luggage cart. The Husband and Wife hear the comment about two hundred murders and look at Holmes.

DETECTIVE WOOLDRIDGE. Erm, there weren’t actually two hundred.

HOLMES. No, you’re right, the number was likely three hundred, but it’s difficult to keep count in a city choked with corpses.

The Husband and Wife, now horrified at the prospect of a stay in this city, hurry off the way they came, followed by the Porter.

A Young Woman, dressed inexpensively, enters, reading a newspaper.

DETECTIVE WOOLDRIDGE. Mr. Holmes, Union Station is where we *welcome* visitors to Chicago, not *scare them off*.

YOUNG WOMAN. Oh!

The Young Woman drops the newspaper.

WATSON. Miss? Is there anything the matter?

A Chicago Policeman enters just in time to see Watson step towards the Young Woman. The Young Woman pulls away from Watson as if he had lunged at her. The Young Woman runs offstage, dropping her newspaper.

Here, now—

CHICAGO POLICEMAN. All right, what’s this?

WATSON. All I did was to offer my assistance.

HOLMES. Officer, my friend is a physician, he was acting in a professional capacity.

CHICAGO POLICEMAN. *You* vouch for him, do ya? And *your* name is?

HOLMES. Holmes.

The Policeman narrows his eyes.

Different one.

Detective Wooldridge shows his badge to the Policeman.

DETECTIVE WOOLDRIDGE. Officer, Mr. Holmes' train is leaving in three minutes, so...

WATSON. Yes, and we promise to be on it.

DETECTIVE WOOLDRIDGE. Mr. Holmes, Dr. Watson, safe journey home.

WATSON. Yes, thank you very much, Mr. Wooldridge.

Detective Wooldridge and the Policeman exit, the latter keeping an eye on Holmes and Watson.

HOLMES. Had someone accosted that woman?

WATSON. Just me apparently. (*Picks up newspaper.*) Or there was something in this. Not a Chicago newspaper. *The Saint Paul Globe*, dated yesterday. (*Reads.*) "WHERE IS THE GROOM? HUSBAND-TO-BE MISSING, FIANCÉE PROSTRATE WITH GRIEF" Won't see that headline style in the *Times*. "Jonathan Upton, who is to wed Miss Laura Forbes this week in lavish ceremonies at the Ice Palace, has disappeared. Upton was last seen on the grounds of the Saint Paul Winter Carnival at midnight Sunday."

Holmes takes the newspaper.

HOLMES. (*Reads.*) "When Upton did not appear at his place of business by noon the following day, his father, Mr. George Upton, began inquiries." (*Lowers newspaper.*) Something amiss there.

WATSON. Yes, the groom. Probably got what the Americans call a case of "cold feet."

HOLMES. I fear Mr. Upton may have colder feet than anyone imagines, even in Minnesota.

WATSON. You think the man's dead? Based on this newspaper account?

HOLMES. Watson, there are only three kinds of stories: those that are true, those that are false, and those that appear in the newspapers. Here, read the small paragraph down the column there.

WATSON. (*Reads.*) "It was learned today that Mr. Upton's fiancée

has returned her bridal gown made of French silk with lace-capped sleeves to the seamstress who created the dress.”

HOLMES. Most brides would cling to the hope that the groom would be found and the wedding go forward. This one seems to have given up as soon as possible.

WATSON. So not only is the groom dead but his bride is the murderess?

HOLMES. I do not say she has committed murder, but the motives of the so-called “fairer sex” are vast and inscrutable. Fortunately, we need not concern ourselves either with the lady nor her absent...

Watson chuckles.

Something you find amusing?

WATSON. Something you *missed*. (*Reads.*) “A person intimately familiar with the case tells the *Globe*: “This is a mystery so deep and disturbing as to confound even so skilled a sleuth as Sherlock Holmes.””

Beat.

HOLMES. The next train to Saint Paul is in one hour, yes?

WATSON. Yes, and our train for New York leaves in less than a minute, then it’s onto the ship and back to England.

HOLMES. Watson, we’ve spent three months on this continent, and this is our *first chance* to observe an American crime *in process*.

WATSON. We don’t even know that a crime has been *committed*.

HOLMES. A crime of the heart.

WATSON. Oh, now, really—

HOLMES. Has our luggage already gone onto the train?

WATSON. Yes, all our bags are onboard, so it’s too late.

HOLMES. You’re right, it is. We shall have to purchase appropriate clothing when we arrive in Saint Paul.

CONDUCTOR. (*From offstage.*) ALL ABOARD!

Lights change. Sound: train horn, steam whoosh.

SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE ICE PALACE MURDERS

by Jeffrey Hatcher

based on the novel by Larry Millett

7M, 2W (doubling)

In 1896, the Winter Carnival is in full swing, but St. Paul's wealthiest man has lost his head—literally. A young man disappears just before his wedding, and his fiancée has already given back her wedding dress. When a gruesome discovery is made in the Ice Palace, there's only one man for the job. Sherlock Holmes is summoned to solve a mystery that's hardly elementary. With the help of trusty Watson and Irish bar-keep Shadwell Rafferty, it's up to Holmes to track a cold-blooded killer from the icy streets of St. Paul to the frozen Mississippi River.

"...a smart, funny, and entertaining mystery..." —**CherryandSpoon.com**

"...there are generous servings of false leads, mistaken identities, plot twists, double dealings, mysterious unsigned notes, smoking pistols, sharpened knives, and witty repartee. Playwright Hatcher, with a tip of the hat to novelist Millett, has created a dandy joy ride that keeps the audience guessing not only who did it, but why and how...and making sure that the pleasure of the game is drawn out to the very end, with every scene adding a piece to the puzzle, but nothing tipping the author's hand. ...sharp dialogue...skillful writing..." —**TalkinBroadway.com**

Also by Jeffrey Hatcher

MURDER BY POE

A PICASSO

SCOTLAND ROAD

and others

DRAMATISTS PLAY SERVICE, INC.

ISBN 978-0-8222-3547-7



9 780822 235477